Senate File 2174 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2174
BY CHELGREN

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the conditions for which a student enrolled
- 2 in grades one through twelve may be excused from physical
- 3 education requirements.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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- 1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2018, 2 are amended to read as follows:
- 3 3. The following areas shall be taught in grades one through
- 4 six: English-language arts, social studies, mathematics,
- 5 science, health, age-appropriate and research-based human
- 6 growth and development, physical education, traffic safety,
- 7 music, and visual art.
- 8 a. The health curriculum shall include the characteristics
- 9 of communicable diseases including acquired immune deficiency
- 10 syndrome.
- 11 b. A school may excuse a student from the physical education
- 12 component of the elementary program if the student's parent
- 13 or guardian requests in writing that the student be excused
- 14 from the physical education class offered and taught under
- 15 this subsection and the student engages in physical activity
- 16 for at least two hours per week at a fitness exercise club or
- 17 other physical fitness or sports center that is approved by the
- 18 school for this purpose.
- 19 c. The state board as part of accreditation standards shall
- 20 adopt curriculum definitions for implementing the elementary
- 21 program.
- 22 4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and
- 23 eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics;
- 24 science; health; age-appropriate and research-based human
- 25 growth and development; career exploration and development;
- 26 physical education; music; and visual art.
- 27 a. Career exploration and development shall be designed
- 28 so that students are appropriately prepared to create an
- 29 individual career and academic plan pursuant to section
- 30 279.61, incorporate foundational career and technical education
- 31 concepts aligned with the six career and technical education
- 32 service areas as defined in subsection 5, paragraph "h", and
- 33 incorporate relevant twenty-first century skills.
- 34 b. The health curriculum shall include age-appropriate
- 35 and research-based information regarding the characteristics

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- 1 of sexually transmitted diseases, including HPV and the
- 2 availability of a vaccine to prevent HPV, and acquired
- 3 immune deficiency syndrome. The state board as part of
- 4 accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum definitions for
- 5 implementing the program in grades seven and eight. However,
- 6 this subsection shall not apply to the teaching of career
- 7 exploration and development in nonpublic schools. For purposes
- 8 of this section, "age-appropriate", "HPV", and "research-based"
- 9 mean the same as defined in section 279.50.
- c. A school may excuse a student from the physical education
- 11 component of the education program if the student's parent
- 12 or guardian requests in writing that the student be excused
- 13 from the physical education class offered and taught under
- 14 this subsection and the student engages in physical activity
- 15 for at least two hours per week at a fitness exercise club or
- 16 other physical fitness or sports center that is approved by the
- 17 school for this purpose.
- 18 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph q,
- 19 subparagraph (1), Code 2018, is amended by adding the following
- 20 new subparagraph division:
- 21 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH DIVISION. (c) Physical fitness activity
- 22 for at least two hours per week at a fitness exercise club or
- 23 other physical fitness or sports center that is approved by the
- 24 school for this purpose.
- 25 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph g,
- 26 subparagraph (2), Code 2018, is amended to read as follows:
- 27 (2) Students in grades nine through eleven may be excused
- 28 from the physical education requirement in order to enroll
- 29 in academic courses not otherwise available to the student
- 30 if the board of directors of the school district in which
- 31 the school is located, or the authorities in charge of the
- 32 school, if the school is a nonpublic school, determine that
- 33 students from the school may be permitted to be excused
- 34 from the physical education requirement. A student may be
- 35 excused by the principal of the school in which the student is

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- 1 enrolled, in consultation with the student's counselor, for up
- 2 to one semester, trimester, or the equivalent of a semester or
- 3 trimester, per year if the parent or guardian of the student
- 4 requests in writing that the student be excused from the
- 5 physical education requirement. The student seeking to be
- 6 excused from the physical education requirement must, at some
- 7 time during the period for which the excuse is sought, be meet
- 8 any of the following conditions:
- 9 (a) Be a participant in an organized and supervised athletic
- 10 program which requires at least as much time of participation
- 11 per week as one-eighth unit of physical education.
- 12 (b) Engage in physical fitness activity for at least two
- 13 hours per week at a fitness exercise club or other physical
- 14 fitness or sports center that is approved by the school for
- 15 this purpose.
- 16 EXPLANATION
- 17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with 18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
- 19 This bill authorizes a student in grades 1 through 12 to
- 20 be excused from the physical fitness requirements under the
- 21 state's educational standards if the student is engaging in
- 22 physical fitness activity for at least two hours per week at
- 23 a fitness exercise club or other physical fitness or sports
- 24 center that is approved by the school.